Ruler of the Dark Region

by Motoki Yuki

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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Lutyre (typeset)

IMAGE

Yukihito (raw) | Malu (clean & redraw)

QUALITY

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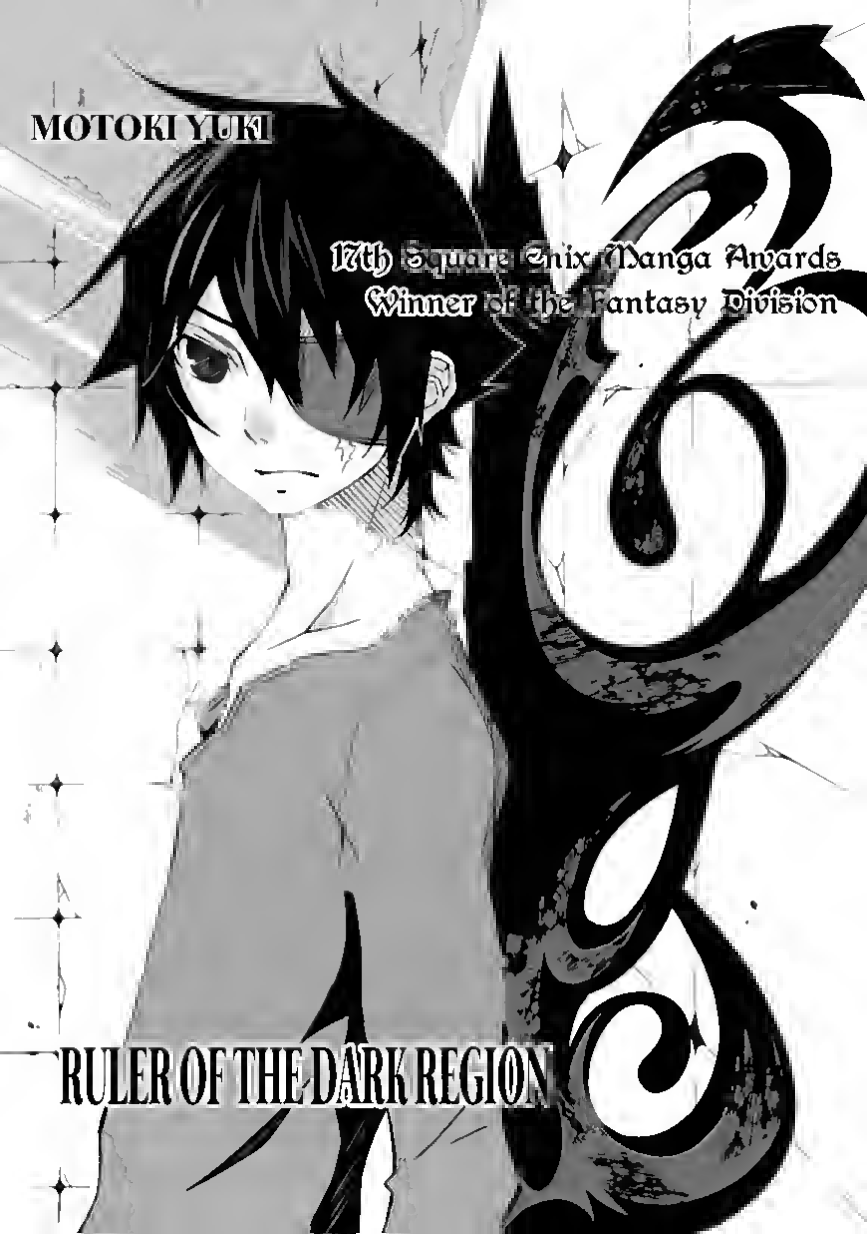
Keito (image enhancement) | Karto & Yukihito (overall review)


MOTOKI YUKI
17th Square Enix Manga Awards
Winner of the Fantasy Division
RULER OF THE DARK REGION

WAIT..A MOMENT.. I'M A LITTLE TIRED SO LET'S TAKE A BREAK..
SO IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO GO AGAINST THE FLOW WHEN YOU'VE FOUND THE CATALYST TO ACTIVATE IT..
THE MAGIC THAT WE USE DRAWS OUT THE POWER OF LIVING THINGS..
AH, THAT'S RIGHT!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, AND I WANTED TO SEE YOUR SHADOW
Isn't this kinda strange?
ISN'T THIS YOUR ASSIGNMENT..?
I'm not trying to do anything suspicious

DON'T HAND IT IN OKAY? THE TEACHER WILL FIND OUT RIGHT AWAY
HAHA. IT'S ALL RIGHT..
You're right

HEY RIO! CAN YOU USE YOUR "SHADOW" TO MAKE THIS PLANT GROW?
WH..T?

WHOA!
FWISH
FWISH
FWISH

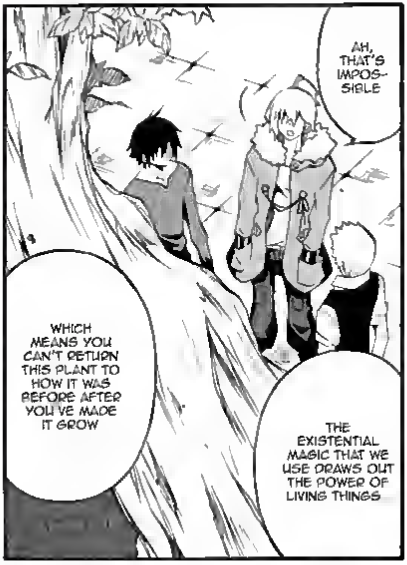
SLIDE

SNAP
SNAP
WHOAAA!
I THINK YOU'VE OVERDONE IT!!!
SNAP

RUSTLE
OH...
!?
SNAP

AMAZING!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS...?

YOU'RE LOOKING AS IF YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB!
GRAB


AH, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
WHICH MEANS YOU CAN'T RETURN THIS PLANT TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE AFTER YOU'VE MADE IT GROW
THE EXISTENTIAL MAGIC THAT WE USE DRAWS OUT THE POWER OF LIVING THINGS

AH, RAIN! PUT THIS BACK TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE! I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?!

STILL...
THE POWER OF YOUR SHADOW IS AMAZING

YOU'RE OVER-EXAGGERATING, YOU KNOW
BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO IT, RAIN

I DON'T GET IT EITHER.

I WONDER IF THE TEACHER WILL GIVE ME ONE TOO! A SPECIAL MAGIC MEDIUM LIKE THE ONES YOU TWO HAVE..!

FOR STARTERS... HOW CAN A SHADOW'S POWER DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHADOWS AND THE GROWTH OF PLANTS...
KNOCK

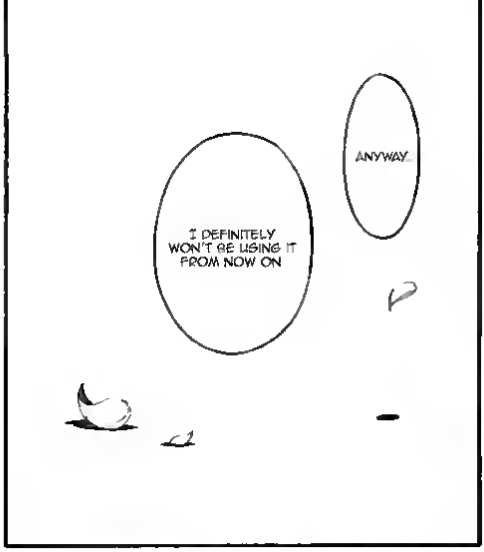
AH, OKAY! I'M COMING NOW!
RAIN! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME!

THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE I CAME TO THIS PRIVATE SCHOOL, BUT I'M NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU AND RAIN..

A SHADOW IS...

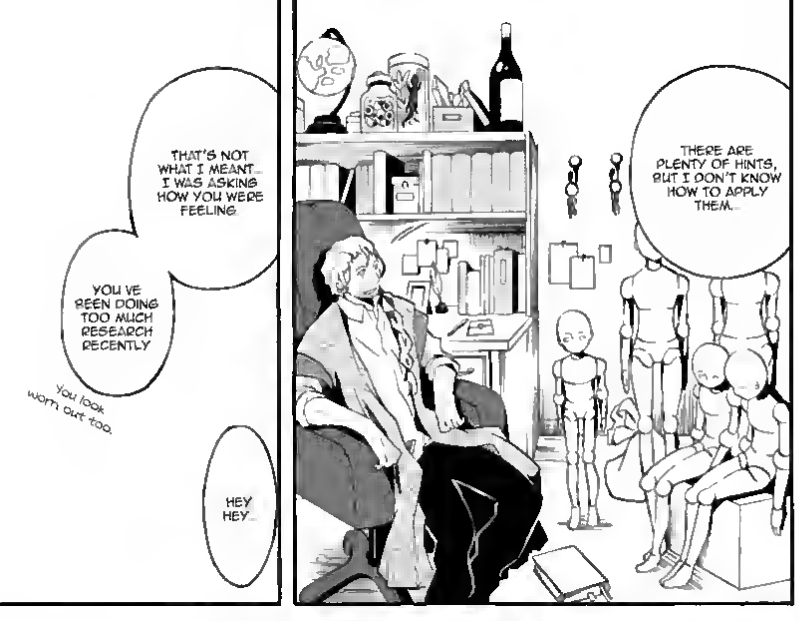
A SECONDARY SOUL WHICH IS ATTACHED TO YOUR OWN SOUL..
IF YOU CONTROL THE SHADOW, YOU CAN CONNECT THE SOULS...
WHAT A WASTE..
YOU MANAGED TO GET A VALUABLE MEDIUM... YOUR SHADOW...
BUT I WONDER WHETHER YOU'RE USING IT THE RIGHT WAY?
WHAT IF IT ACTUALLY HAS A DIFFERENT ABILITY?

IF THEY SAY SOMETHING LIKE "I DON'T GET IT", A CASTER WON'T BE ABLE TO SET THEIR MAGIC TO TAKE FORM...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
EVEN SO, IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN USING EXISTENTIAL MAGIC.
I DON'T THINK YOUR SHADOW IS THAT SIMPLE
AS LONG AS I UNDERSTAND THE TECHNIQUE RELEASE BOOK I GOT FROM THE TEACHER, IT'S POSSIBLE TO ACTIVATE MAGIC WITHOUT ANY TOOLS OR SPELLS
OR YOU ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW YOUR ABILITY?
IS IT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT?
YOU STILL CAN'T HANDLE YOUR ABILITY?


I DEFINITELY WON'T BE USING IT FROM NOW ON
ANYWAY...
JUST AS I THOUGHT. YOU'RE SMART.

clatter
clatter
HOW ARE THINGS GOING, SIR?
HMM?

EXCUSE ME


THERE ARE PLENTY OF HINTS, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO APPLY THEM...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT... I WAS ASKING HOW YOU WERE FEELING.
YOU'VE BEEN DOING TOO MUCH RESEARCH RECENTLY
you look worn out too.
HEY HEY...

HOW CAN A MAGICIAN NOT DO RESEARCH?
A DOLL WHICH HAS ITS OWN WILL?!
USING MAGIC TO GIVE SOMETHING ITS OWN WILL ...IS THAT POSSIBLE?
IT'S ALMOST COMPLETE! I'M GOING TO BUILD THE GREATEST DOLL, ONE WHICH HAS ITS OWN WILL

..TO TELL THE TRUTH, DOING IT WITH MAGIC ALONE IS DIFFICULT.
YOU SUBSTITUTE SOMETHING WITH A CONNECTION TO WILL AND EMOTIONS, AND YOU USE MAGIC TO TRANSFER THAT TO THE DOLL..
THEN IT WILL BE QUITE POSSIBLE
WHAT IS THAT SUBSTITUTE?
twitch
!?
WHO KNOWS.. I WONDER WHAT IT IS..
SLAM
I'LL HELP IF I CAN!
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME A LOT, SO I SHOULD DO SOMETHING FOR YOU ONCE IN A WHILE

AT THAT TIME... I MIGHT ASK FOR YOUR HELP...
ONCE IT'S COMPLETE, IT SHOULD BE USEFUL TO PEOPLE'S LIVES
Eh?
!?
.....
HAHA. THAT WOULD BE NICE.
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO RUN A SHOP WITH JUST DOLLS
THEY CAN MOVE THIS MUCH WITH THE POWER OF MAGIC. SO I'M SURE THEY'LL BE USEFUL!
UMM..
THE MEDIUM YOU GAVE ME THE SHADOW.. HAVE YOU EVER USED IT?
.....
SIR..

IT'S THE SAME FOR RAIN'S SPELL BOOK. MEDIUMS WHICH MANIFEST A STRONG ABILITY CHOOSE THEIR CASTER
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU CAN'T USE IT...?!
Even you can't, Sir?!

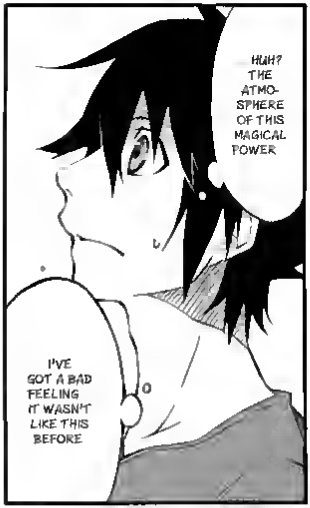
OF COURSE NOT. I CAN'T USE IT
rattle
rattle

TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T WISH FOR THAT.
SLIDE

SIR... WHAT IS THIS LIQUID?
THE MEDIUM CHOSE ME...?
AH, I GOT THAT FROM A MAGICIAN I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME.
AH.

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK, SIR.
AH... RAIN?
YOU'RE PLAYING SOME PRANK AGAIN...!
Heh
Peek
!!!
I'M NOT PLAYING A PRANK, OKAY?
I WANTED YOU TO WORK HARD, SO I CAME TO CHEER YOU UP...

I'LL GO AND CHECK THINGS OUT
.....
?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM TODAY. IS HE HIDING AWAY AND DOING RESEARCH?
OKAY, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.



IS OUR TEACHER REALLY THE ONE INSIDE..?

ALL THE DOLLS INSIDE THE SCHOOL HAVE STOPPED MOVING TOO..
OH, RIO! HOW WAS IT?
IT WAS THE SAME AGAIN TODAY.. HE REPLIES, BUT THE BARRIER STAYS CLOSED
ISN'T IT BETTER TO HAVE A MORE CERTAIN TECHNIQUE AFTER ALL?
OH YEAH, I HAVEN'T SEEN RAIN EITHER...
YOU WON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING IF YOU WORRY ABOUT THE SACRIFICE, RIGHT?
WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE..YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, DON'T YOU, SIR?
rattle
rattle
SIR...

WHAT SHOULD THE STUDENTS DO..?
WHY...
I TRIED TO BREAK THE BARRIER YESTERDAY. BUT IT WAS NO GOOD..
I couldn't do anything
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A MONTH SINCE HE LOCKED HIMSELF AWAY..
I HAVEN'T SEEN OUR TEACHER TODAY EITHER..
HUSSH

ALL RIGHT ELLEN!!
LET'S GO AND SAY HELLO TO EVERY ONE!
AND STOP HIM..?
DIDN'T I NOTICE SOONER.....

SOMETHING REGRETFUL HAPPENED

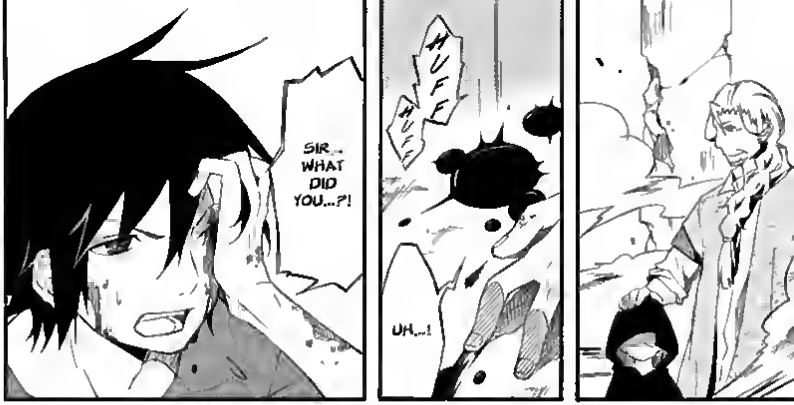
EVERYONE... THANK YOU FOR COMING...!
THE RESEARCH THAT YOU ALL KNOW I'VE BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW...
IS FINALLY...

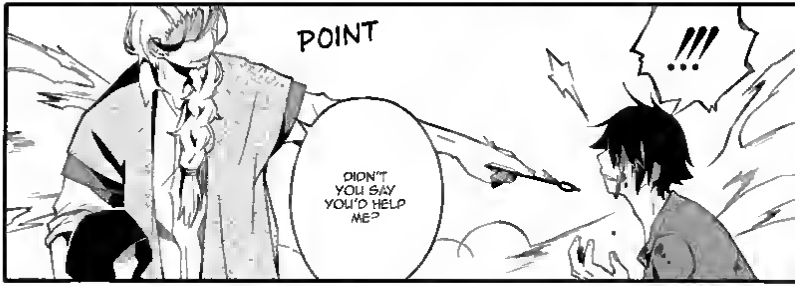
NEAR COMPLETION...!
rattle

FOR IT TO BE COMPLETED, I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE...
wwwhwhwh

CHATTER
HEY.. DOESN'T HE SEEM TO BE ACTING STRANGELY...?
CHATTER
THUMP
THUMP
!
!!?
WHOOSH
LIFT
!!!?
COME ON LET'S START

HA
HA
HA!
blow


SIR... WHAT DID YOU...?!
HUFF HUFF
UH...!


POINT
!!!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D HELP ME?

TH
UD

SIR!!!
SIR...
cough
cough
UGH...!
THUD
YOU WERE LUCKY UNLIKE THE OTHERS.
!!?
RAIN... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH, YOU'RE ALIVE WHAT A SHAME
GEEZ...
RIGHT HOW IS EVERYONE ELSE?!

HEY... WHAT'S ... GOING ON HERE?
!!!

THEY'VE PROBABLY HAD ALL THEIR SENSES REMOVED
THEY CAN'T SEE, HEAR OR FEEL ANYTHING
ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'RE INJURED TOO

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, JEAN!
Pull!
IT'S NO GOOD. HE'S GOING TO DIE ANYWAY.
This guy is already dead.

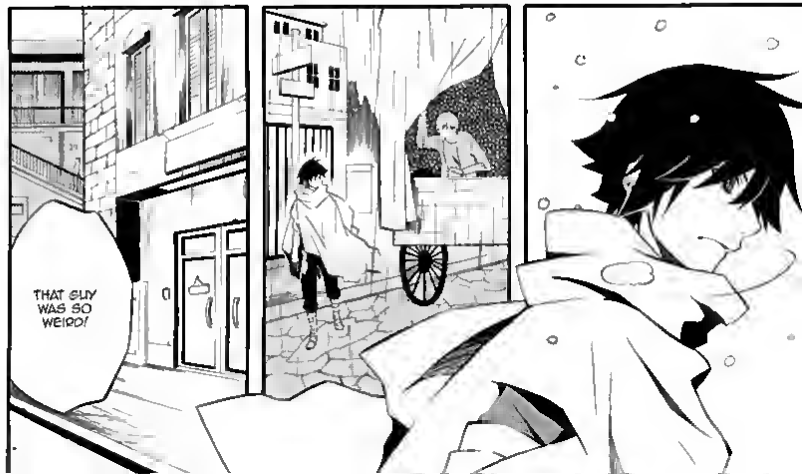
FIND A SUBSTITUTE AND USE MAGIC TO TRANSFER THAT TO A DOLL.
SO THAT'S HOW THE DOLL WAS GIVEN ITS OWN WILL...!
HEHEHE... HEHE... HAHA!
AHA HA HA HA!
I'M REALLY SURPRISED!!!
WE'VE BECOME SOME KIND OF COMPONENT FOR THAT DOLL
!!!

THE GREATEST DOLL, ONE WHICH HAS ITS OWN WILL...
THINGS WILL GET EVEN MORE FUN!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
IS THERE A REASON WHY HE'D GO THIS FAR TO GIVE THE DOLL ITS OWN WILL..?
I'M GOING TO STAY WITH HIM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR TEACHER DID SOMETHING SO INTERESTING!
HAHAHAHA
AHAHAHA

HEY...

WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS HE?

HE WAS A MAGICIAN! MY COMPANIONS GOT HURT


THAT GUY WAS SO WEIRD!

HUH?!
WHERE DID YOU SEE THAT GUY?
HEY! YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT GUY, MISTER...?! DON'T BOTHER!
.....
I'M THE SAME AS HIM
IT'S OKAY..
HE'S CRAZY!
MY COMPANIONS WERE ALMOST KILLED! YOU MIGHT GET KILLED!

I'VE GOT TO DESTROY THE DOLL...
BUT AT THE VERY WORST, THOSE TWO WOULD ALSO...
UMM...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO THE MANSION, I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY...
A CHILD ?!
THE MANSION...?! DOES SOMEONE LIVE THERE?
RIGHT NOW, IT'S JUST ME AND MY MASTER
WHO..

A MAGICAL POWER WHICH MAKES ME FEEL UNEASY...
ARE YOU?
I'M PROBA-BLY..
ELLEN... THAT'S WHAT I THINK
HEY...!
RUN
MASTER IS CALLING ME
FLINCH

WAIT...
!!?
TAP TAP TAP
!!?
HMM. YOU'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE INTERESTING WITH YOU
SILENCE
TAP
TAP
IT'S BEEN A WHILE... ABOUT SIX MONTHS?
THAT EYE PATCH... AH, YOUR EYESIGHT WAS TAKEN AWAY BACK THEN, HUH?
MUNCH
MUNCH
...RAIN!

I GOT HIT PRETTY BADLY...
BUT YOU GOT AWAY WITH JUST LOSING YOUR EYESIGHT.
ANYTHING ELSE?
NO.
I LOST MY HEARING IN ONE EAR
AND THIS
NOTHING I EAT HAS ANY FLAVOR
SNAP
A
HA
HA
HA!
MY STOM-ACH'S ACHING!
HE'S RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!
HEH
HE HE HE
...I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH OUR TEACHER. HE'S WITH YOU, ISN'T HE?
!!?

turns
NO WAY...!
SHE IS...?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
LONG AGO.. WELL, IT ACTUALLY WASN'T THAT LONG AGO...
THERE WAS AN INFLUENTIAL MAGICIAN
BEFORE THAT.. I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING THE STUDENTS DIDN'T KNOW...

APPARENTLY, HE ONLY HAD ONE FAMILY MEMBER... A DAUGHTER.
HIS DAUGHTER SUFFERED FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS.
MAGIC COULD ONLY CURE MINOR INJURIES...
SO THE MAGICIAN DID HIS BEST TO TAKE CARE OF HIS DAUGHTER.

HOWEVER!
THE POOR GIRL PASSED AWAY ☆
THE MAGICIAN LOCKED AWAY HIS FEELINGS IN HIS HEART
BUT..!
MANY YEARS LATER...

!!!
I KNEW IT THE DOLL FROM BACK THEN..!
HE CREATED A DOLL WHICH HAD ITS OWN WILL.

THAT'S RIGHT!
OUR TEACHER WAS CONSUMED BY HIS DESIRE AND BECAME CRIPPLED IN THE END, HE DIED WHEN
THE DOLL, WHICH TOOK THE FORM OF HIS DAUGHTER, DEVOURED HIS FIVE SENSES.
TCH!
Ahahaha
HOW STUPID! WHEN HE BECAME ILL, HIS MAGIC WEAKENED!
THAT'S WHY I TOOK CONTROL OF THIS DOLL AND MADE IT EAT OUR TEACHER.
YOU PLANNED THIS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, DIDN'T YOU?!
YOU ONLY JUST NOTICED? BUT...TAKING THE THINGS YOU WANT ..ISN'T THAT JUST NORMAL?
GRAB!
THE NEXT THING IS..
THE MEDIUM YOU HAVE YOUR SHADOW

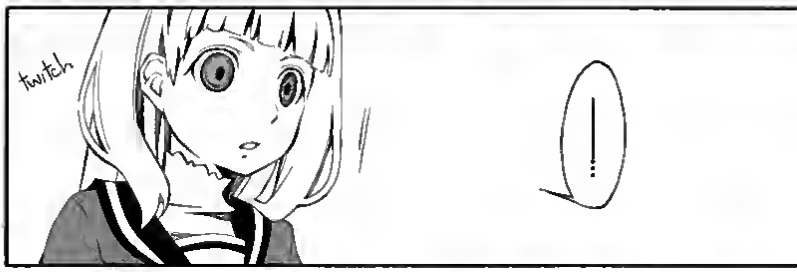
FWISH
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I DON'T WANT USING IT
FWISH
FWISH
FWISH
FWISH
SL
AP
YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO USE YOUR ABILITY AREN'T YOU?
I CAN USE IT MORE EFFECTIVELY !
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

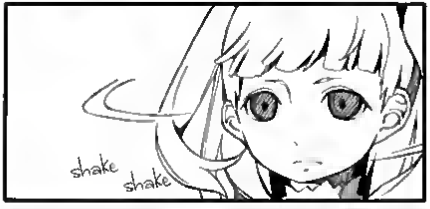
SO YOU'RE ABLE TO FORM A SHADOW. HUH? I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY MYSELF A LITTLE
I'LL USE MY ABILITY TO ENABLE THE DOLL TO FIGHT
PLAY WITH HIM, YOU PIECE OF TRASH
BZZ
KA-
CHING
YES, MASTER
whoosh

CLANG
SHE'S FAST...!
SPIN
drip
drip
drip
TCH!
SLASH

HA HA!
AHA HA HA HA!
huff
huff
WHAT INCREDIBLE STRENGTH...!
CLA
NG
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
AT THIS RATE, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE...
appears
THEN IS THIS PART OF ITS WILL TOO?!
IF THIS DOLL REALLY DOES HAVE ITS OWN WILL...
A HA HA HA!
BO
OM
cough
cough

YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS ELLEN... DIDN'T YOU?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM...


twitch
!!


shake
shake

AH, I SEE. THEN...
YOU IGNORE YOUR OWN WILL AND FOLLOW ANY ORDERS YOUR MASTER GIVES YOU.

DO YOU FIGHT LIKE YOU DID NOW
BY WILLINGLY ABSORBING THE ABILITIES OF OTHERS?

YOU'RE WRONG...
I NEED A CASTER! THAT'S WHY THE ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE...
WHOOSH
WHOO
SH
!!?
!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY USELESS..
I'VE GOT NO STRENGTH MY MAGICAL POWER IS GONE
ELLEN
HEY! YOU PIECE OF TRASH!
WHO SAID YOU COULD BE FRIENDLY WITH HIM? HUH?! YOU SPOILED BRAT...

IS THERE ANY REASON YOUR CASTER HAS TO BE RAIN?
WELL...
THAT'S FOR YOU TO DECIDE.
whoosh
whoosh
whoo
I'VE GOTTEN BORED. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, OKAY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S RIGHT ☆ YOU'RE SURPRISED AREN'T YOU?
dash
DON'T LOOK AWAY!
NO WAY THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH EXISTENTIAL MAGIC!
2! PHYSICAL OBJECTS FROM THE MAGIC BOOK?2!
CLA
TCH!
!
NG
I'VE GOT MORE THAN JUST ONE OF THESE! IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT..

PIER
CE
!!!
EVEN OUR TEACHER WASN'T CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS
HAHA HA...
FALL
AHA HA HA HA!
THAT'S BECAUSE OUR TEACHER WAS SIMPLE! HIS STUDENT IS QUITE IMPRES-SIVE TOO ♪

...SION...
PLEASE...
UH...
THAT'S FOR YOU TO DECIDE.
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND...!
IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION! MASTER OFTEN USES THEM...

SMACK
!
TCH!
YOU REALLY DO LIKE GETTING IN THE WAY OF OTHER PEOPLE'S FUN. DO YOU WANT ME TO TEAR YOU TO PIECES?

OUR TEACHER LOOKED CAREFULLY ALTHOUGH HE KNEW IT WAS AN ILLUSION.
THE FIGURE OF HIS DAUGH-TER...
FSSHHH
AH, IT DISAPPEARED
SLIP
ANNOYED
...WHAT IS IT?

SHOW ME... THE AGILITY OF YOUR SHADOW ALREADY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE GOTTEN BORED...
STOP. THAT'S ENOUGH.
THE SHADOW IS A SECONDARY SOUL WHICH IS CONNECTED TO THE FIRST SOUL... THAT'S WHAT OUR TEACHER SAID.
WHOO
SK
TAP
TAP
TAP

AND ERASES THEIR SOUL
TOUCHING THE SHADOW IS THE SAME AS TOUCHING THE SOUL..
MY SHADOW SWALLOWS MY OPPONENT'S SHADOW
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD...BUT MY SOUL ISN'T CHEAP LIKE THE STUDENTS SOULS...

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
NO ONE CAN MEASURE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
TCH!
I'M FED UP WITH YOU TOO.. SO THIS IS THE END
SNAP
YOU'RE LECTURING ME...YOU'VE BECOME QUITE AN ARROGANT PERSON, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU'RE REALLY ANNOYING...

YOUR MAGIC CANNOT AFFECT MY SHADOW
SQUEEZE
T
AP

BURN
WHOOSH
WHAT IS?
...I'M IN A LOT OF PAIN.
BUT.. I'M A DOLL... THAT'S WEIRD..
crackle
crackle
THE MAGIC WHICH LIMITED MY EMOTIONS IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT..
IT HAPPENS TO ANY LIVING HUMAN.

I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF BLAMING YOU!
!!
A DOLL NORMALLY WOULDN'T MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE, WOULD THEY?
UMM. WHAT ABOUT YOUR INJURIES?
AH... I USED MAGIC TO STOP THE BLEEDING A WHILE AGO.
THEY REALLY HURT THOUGH
TAP
TAP
UH...

...WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'LL GET LEFT BEHIND, YOU KNOW?
JUST KIDDING.
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO MOTOKI YUKI-SENSEI'S NEXT WORK.
IT'S NOTHING...
MASTER...
THE END